of new sugar factories run by private sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Sectoral priorities to be followed during the Seventh Five Year Plan have been indicated in reply to Unstarred Question 418 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th February, 1987. No Letter of intent/industrial licence has been granted for setting up of new sugar factories in the country to the private sector so far, after the announcement of the new guidelines.

**Prices of edible oils**

2917. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 43 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the soaring prices of edible oils are due to fall in production of oilseeds in drought prone areas of Saurashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to stabilise the current spiral of prices of edible oils;

(c) whether it is a fact that the imported edible oils have been diverted by private companies to earn more profits and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The reasons for increase in the prices of edible oils are overall shortfall in the production of oilseeds including shortfall in the drought prone areas and the impact of lean period.

(b) The Government have taken the following steps to stabilise the prices of edible oils:—

(i) States have been asked to take stringent measures against hoarder and speculators. Checking of vanaspati units has been intensified.

(ii) All efforts are being made to increase the production of edible oils to achieve self-sufficiency.

(ii) Supply management of imported edible oils to Public Distribution System and vanaspati industry has been geared to check the rising trend in the prices.

(c) and (d) Except for one case, no such instances have been reported to Government. In this case, besides investigation by the Bombay police, the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports and Exports has passed an abeyance order against the firm.

**Recommendations for safety of Dams**

2918. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations made by the Committee set up by his Ministry to review the safety of the dams;

(b) whether the committee has suggested measures for monitoring the structural defects in the dams from time to time;

(c) whether the committee has recommended setting up safety organisation;